

## Message Text

SECRET

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42

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SS-15 CIAE-00 PM-07 INR-10 L-03 NEA-10

NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 USIA-15 TRSE-00 MBFR-03

SAJ-01 NSC-10 RSR-01 /106 W

----- 130738

R 031420Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6662

SECDEF WASHDC

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION BERLIN

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

USNMR SHAPE

S E C R E T BONN 11099

SHAPE FOR INTAF; BERLIN FOR THE AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS-

TAGS: PARM, GW, NATO

SUBJECT: MBFR: ALLIED WORK PROGRAM

REF: USNATO 3644

1. FONOFF MBFR EXPERT RUTH TOLD EMBOFF AUG 2 THAT FRG COULD SUPPORT US PROPOSAL FOR SPC WORK PROGRAM AS OUTLINED REFTEL. ONLY GERMAN QUESTION ON SUBJECT IS WHETHER PROCEDURAL ISSUES (I.E. PLENARY, EMISSARY SYSTEMS, ETC.) SHOULD BE TREATED SEPARATELY AS IN ITEM IV OF US PAPER OR TOGETHER WITH SECTION ON NEGOTIATING STRATEGY (US ITEM III). RUTH SAID FRG DOES NOT FEEL STRONGLY ON THIS POINT.

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2. RUTH SAID HE EXPECTED THAT, AS A RESULT OF FIRST

NAC EXCHANGES ON US PAPER, IT WOULD BE NECESSARY FOR NATO TO ACCORD MORE DETAILED CONSIDERATION TO SOME SPECIFIC ISSUES. HE SAID THOSE TOPICS MIGHT INCLUDE, FOR EXAMPLE, THE COMMON CEILING CONCEPT, REDUCTION PERCENTAGES IN MBFR-I, TYPE OF CONSTRAINTS AND, IN VIEW OF DIFFERENT BELGIAN DESCRIPTION OF DATA, FIGURES AND DATA BASE.

3. TO EMBOFF'S QUERY REGARDING BRITISH CONCEPT OF PARITY IN COMBAT CAPABILITY, RUTH SAID THIS SHOULD BE TREATED AS HELPFUL SUPPLEMENTARY CONSIDERATION RATHER THAN AS ALTERNATIVE TO US COMMON CEILING CONCEPT. IN THIS RESPECT, HE NOTED THAT, DURING

AUG 1 NAC MEETING (USNATO 3617), BRITISH REP THOMSON ALREADY HAD ACKNOWLEDGED PAPER'S EMPHASIS ON

SOVIET TANK REDUCTIONS. HE SAID HE SHARED OUR VIEW THAT COMBAT CAPABILITY IS TOO MORPHOUS AND VAGUE A CONCEPT TO PROVIDE A SATISFACTORY OVERALL RATIONALE FOR THE WESTERN NEGOTIATING POSITION. HILLENBRAND

SECRET

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** n/a  
**Control Number:** n/a  
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**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
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**Disposition Authority:** hilburpw  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
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**Reference:** 73 USNATO 3644  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** hilburpw  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 06 AUG 2001  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <06-Aug-2001 by izenbei0>; APPROVED <06-Sep-2001 by hilburpw>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** MBFR: ALLIED WORK PROGRAM  
**TAGS:** PARM, GE, NATO  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005